

RT
Dear Dave, Lifton

4/10/79

Today a college student called my attention to 62-109050-6616, the Raun Tampa newspaper stories that flowed from your getting a memo I wrote Fred Newcomb and gave to Kerry Thornley and/or his lawyer.

More than a decade has passed. I have no interest in your present relationship, if any with Thornley and little more than mild curiosity about how you could have become involved with the kind of person I would hope by now you know he was.

What does interest me is having an honest account to deposit with my own records of those adventures. Right now my files hold only what was sent to me or what I wrote. As it stands you were involved in serious distortions and misrepresentations, I hope not of your own conceiving.

If you would care to send me anything even if I disagree with it I will file it.

By now you should have heard that long before the Raun pieces I was not getting along well with Garrison and that he did not love me at all. He had nothing to do with what I asked of Fred and knew nothing about it. It had nothing to do with the perjury charge against Thornley. It did have to do with multiple selections of various photographs of Thornley by persons said to have seen Oswald. The clear and entirely undisguised intent was to determine if an artist could change the Thornley appearance to more closely resemble Oswald.

As I never investigated Shaw in New Orleans so also did I never investigate Thornley. My work was all on Oswald. It was over an Oswald report that I went to see that nut Clint Bolton, who was worried that Thornley was headed for trouble. I told him how I thought that could be avoided, as I believe he wrote in a column he had in a Quarter weekly and as I believe he recommended. I did prevent troubles for others.

An exception was forced upon me as I now recall by an earlier adventure you and he shared. As by now you should have learned, even what he alleged about Barbara Reed was not truthful and was deliberately distorted.

With the passing of so much time much of this may also be out of your mind. However, you are no longer a college boy and may have reflected on those propaganda exploits. You may also have wondered a bit since about the affidavit you got from Thornley and provided to Garrison based on which if Garrison had gone off half-cocked another innocent could have been hurt.

I never represented myself as representing Garrison and never did represent him. We did disagree on very much. On the trip on which I wrote Newcomb I had no portable because mine was broken. On the next trip I had a new one. It was intercepted and wrecked. I then got this Hermes, which I do not carry with me. After that misfortune I got to know Matt Herron and borrowed a wreck of a machine from him and used it. Gary Schaener knows of the interception. My tape recorder also got the works then. And as I think was obvious, I did not see the memo and did not sign it. I has asked the stereo to mail it and she did. I have no idea why she used a letterhead but it was given a false meaning by those who had an end to serve thereby. Now the FBI has put it to the same misuse.

I'm not taking time to check my files but I believe they hold an account of the means by which you obtained that memo from Fred, sort of unorthodox means. If you would care to put any of that in writing plus any explanation I will file that also, of course.

My purpose is fairness. I don't have time for the other work I want to do and stay much too busy on FOIA work as it is. Excuse the typos. Sincerely, Harold Weisberg